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Addendum

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Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (item 3)

Note by the Secretary-General on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 June 1999, the Committee considered a note by the Secretary-General on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (A/54/67).

Discussion

2. Views were expressed that the consideration of this agenda item was an important one and deep concerns about its proposed elimination were communicated. It was recalled that the last report submitted by the Secretary-General on this item, in response to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, was issued as document A/45/226. It was noted that the only item under the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations was procurement reform, and that other issues that related to reform, such as the development account, results-based budgeting and the revolving credit fund, were under agenda item 113, Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999. While recognizing the need to eliminate duplication of work, concern was expressed about the potential negative impact of the elimination of the agenda item and the report.

3. A view was expressed that the report could be discontinued but the agenda item maintained. An oral report to the Committee was considered an alternative. A question was raised about the legal basis for the consideration of the item if the report of the Secretary-

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General was discontinued. It was also stressed that it was necessary for the Member States to be kept informed of progress on the reform of the Organization. The view was expressed that the Committee should receive a report in writing, which should be a progress report on achievement in the reform process and be analytical in nature.

Conclusion and recommendations

4. The Committee recommends:

(a) That the agenda item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" be retained on the agenda of the General Assembly;

(b) That a progress report on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations be submitted biennially to the General Assembly through the appropriate intergovernmental bodies.